Course title: Global media and international journalism in the 21st century

Language of instruction: English

Professor: Dr. Christopher D. Tulloch

Professor’s office: 52.917 (Campus de la Comunicació)

Office hours: Tuesday / Thursday mornings

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credit: 3 US credits-5 ECTS credits

Course prerequisites: There are no strict course prerequisites although Mass Communications Studies, Journalism, Political Science or History would be an advantage.

Language requirements: None

Course description:
Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the worldwide media panorama has undergone structural changes which have dramatically changed the relationship between global politics and the transnational communication system. The former Anglo-American dominance over global news flow has been replaced by a new circuit of cultural, regional and national systems all competing in what former French president Jacques Chirac called the “global battle of images”. In this sense, the present course looks at world news management up until now before analyzing the consolidation of global media such as Al-Jazeera in the Arab world, Tele Sur (Latin America) or Zee TV (India) to look at their role in the global news story and the development of “South-South” communication. Through the analysis of case studies such as the media coverage of Islam, the Africa story, the European Union and finally the image of Spain in the foreign press, we can analyze the role of the foreign correspondent as an intercultural mediator, the media construction of the “Other”, the new actors in the global news narrative and ask the question: how does the future of the world news system shape up?

Learning objectives:
At the end of this course students should be able to:
Hispanic and European Studies Program

i) Redefine journalistic terminology on the subject of “international communication” given the changes that have taken place within the global media structure.

ii) Comprehend news mechanisms (use of stereotypes, preconceived cognitive frameworks, highlighting of conflictive or surprising elements, etc) which are used to construct the ‘Other’ and to represent foreign cultures through the mass media.

iii) Trace the role of international journalism within contemporary history from both a European and Atlantic perspective.

iv) Critically analyze the specific importance of war reporting within the global journalism discourse.

v) Grasp the underlying changes which this new media panorama implies for the future and the challenge it represents for the Anglo-American media which until now had a monopoly on the way the international news story was told.

Course workload:
The workload for this course involves two exams (final and midterm), a 2000 word (8-10 page) research paper, an oral presentation, three field studies, a couple of spot reading tests and given the nature of the course material, a great deal of class participation.

Methods of instruction:
All classes will begin with a brief review of the key ideas from the previous session. An “icebreaker” seminar paper or power point presentation will then follow based on the subject to be debated in class. The course lecturer will then use the paper as a springboard for going into greater depth on the main issues of the class session. Theoretical classes will be accompanied by structured debates, group exercises, audiovisual documentaries, recommended readings, on-site classes and field study trips to relevant institutions such as the Barcelona International Press Centre, news agencies, newspaper, newsrooms and so on. Visiting lecturers (US foreign correspondents, international news desk chiefs, etc) may be invited.

Method of assessment:
Final Exam = 25%
Midterm exam = 25%
Research paper = 20%
Oral presentation / seminar paper = 10%
Spot tests based on readings 2 x 5% = 10%
Class participation = 10%

Absence policy:
Excused absences will only be justified by an official medical report or probable family emergency. Any other reason will not justify an absence to class or changing the date of an exam. The UPF official absence policy is as follows:
3 absences: Student loses one point out of ten.
4 absences: Student loses two points out of ten.
5 absences or more: Student receives an “Incomplete” for the course

Classroom norms:
- No food or drink is permitted in class
- Students will have a ten-minute break midway through the class
- Students should ask permission to use computers in the classroom
- Students are asked to show respect for their peers

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1 - Session 1

Content:
Introduction to syllabus, course requirements, method of assessment and defining course concepts

Activity
Personal and academic presentations. General overview of course, bibliography. Distribution of oral presentations.

Student assignments
Prepare ideas on pre-modern media operations. Prepare reading for next class

WEEK 1 - Session 2

Content:
The History of International Journalism 1785-1865

Activity
Analyze ideas in Hohenberg text. Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments
Read Hohenberg, “The First Foreign Correspondents”. pp. 1-25

WEEK 2 - Session 1

Content:
The Golden Age: The History of International Journalism 1865-1914

Activity
Student oral presentation. Review Hohenberg text.

Student assignments

WEEK 2 - Session 2

Content:
Sarajevo to Hiroshima: The History of International Journalism 1914-1945

Activity
Student presentation, Review ideas in Hohenberg text. Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments
Read Hohenberg, chaps 4 & 5. pp. 80-156

WEEK 3 - Session 1

Content:
The Cold War: The History of International Journalism 1945-1989

Activity
Student oral presentation. Review Hohenberg text. Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments

WEEK 3 - Session 2

Content:
From Berlin to Iraq: The History of International Journalism 1989-2010

Activity
Student oral presentation. Review Hohenberg text. Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments

WEEK 4 - Session 1

Content:
War correspondents I : myth and reality. Typology, mythology, literature and movies.

Activity
Student oral presentation. Lecture and discussion of audiovisual material

Student assignments
Knightly abstracts in course reader.

WEEK 4 - Session 2

Content:
War correspondents II. Special job = special problems. Risks.
Photojournalism. Guest speaker: war correspondent (tbc)

Activity
Student oral presentation. Lecture and discussion of Marinovich photocopies.
Student assignments
Read and view Marinovich photo-essay.

WEEK 5 - Session 1

Content:
Foreign correspondents I: typology and profile.

Activity
Reactions to guest speaker session. Student oral presentation.
Review Hess and Tulloch texts. Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments

WEEK 5 - Session 2

Content:
Foreign correspondents II: logistics, sources, use of new technologies.

Activity
Student oral presentation. Review Hess texts Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments
Read Hess, pp. 79-87.

WEEK 6 - Session 1

Content:
How should we cover the globe? A new world = a new news map.

Activity
Review Tulloch material. Student oral presentation. Map readings, world geography and news currents.

Student assignments
Prepare to interpret world maps.

WEEK 6 - Session 2

Content:
Field study trip: International Press Centre (Barcelona)

Activity
Trip to IPCB

Student assignments
Prepare questions for field trip.

WEEK 7 - Session 1

Content:
Midterm exam review.

Activity
Revision and individual research paper tutorials

Student assignments
Prepare questions/doubts for midterm exam. Research paper draft.

WEEK 7 - Session 2

Content:
Mid-term Exam

Activity
Midterm Exam

Student assignments
Midterm exam.

WEEK 8 - Session 1

Content:
International Journalism at work. Covering Islam.

Activity
Midterm Exam results and discussion. Review of Said text. Student oral presentation.

Student assignments
Read Said, chap 1.

WEEK 8 - Session 2

Content:
The Hot Spot: coverage of the Middle East.

Activity
Documentary viewing “Life on the line”. Student oral presentation.

Student assignments
Prepare TV debate. Read Course instructor handout

WEEK 9 - Session 1
Content:
A dead end story? Worldwide media coverage of Africa.

Activity
Discuss Tulloch article. Student oral presentation. Lecture and in-class debate

Student assignments
Tulloch, Media re-construction of Africa, pp. 1-14

WEEK 9 - Session 2

Content:
The Image of Spain in the foreign press.

Activity
Student oral presentation. Discuss Sadaba text. Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments
Tulloch, Media re-construction of Africa, pp. 1-14

WEEK 10 - Session 1

Content:
Guest speaker: US foreign correspondent in Barcelona / Madrid

Activity
Guest speaker Q & A session.

Student assignments
Prepare to quiz foreign correspondent on his professional experience in Spain

WEEK 10 - Session 2

Content:
Research Paper tutorials

Activity
One-to-one tutorials with all students to discuss research papers.

Student assignments
Prepare session with instructor and to answer questions on bibliography, sources, structure

WEEK 11 - Session 1

Content:
Al-Jazeera: the face of Arab television

Activity
Discuss foreign correspondent session. Student oral presentation. View Al-Jazeera TV footage. Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments
Read Miles, Chaps 6, pp. 173-220 & Chap. 11 pp. 390-426

WEEK 11 - Session 2

Content:
TeleSur: the voice of Latin America

Activity
Discuss Tulloch & Crusafon article. Student oral presentation. View TeleSur TV footage. Lecture and discussion

Student assignments
Read Tulloch & Crusafon, pp. 1-14

WEEK 12 - Session 1

Content:
France 24: European challenge to Anglo-American supremacy

Activity
Discuss Tulloch & Crusafon article. Student oral presentation. View France 24 footage. Lecture and discussion.

Student assignments
Read Tulloch & Crusafon, pp. 15-23

WEEK 12 - Session 2

Content:
International News Agencies

Activity
Student oral presentation. Review Read text. Lecture and discussion

Student assignments
Consult Read, chap. 1 (approx. 30 pages)

WEEK 13 - Session 1

Content:
The Death of “International” News. The consolidation of “transnational” journalism.

Activity
Student oral presentation. Review Miles text. Lecture and discussion

Student assignments
WEEK 13 - Session 2

Content:
The Future of Foreign news correspondence

Activity
Student oral presentation. Discuss Hohenberg & Hess texts. Lecture and discussion

Student assignments
Hohenberg, chap 10 & Hess, pp. 60-68.

WEEK 14 - Session 1

Content:
Final Exam review. Submission deadline for research papers

Activity
Papers to be submitted. Q & A session for final exam

Student assignments
Hand in research paper. Prepare questions/doubts for final exam

WEEK 14 - Session 2

Content:
Final exam

Activity
Final Exam

Student assignments
Final exam

Required readings:
Course reading pack prepared by professor

Recommended bibliography: